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Security Council

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Letter dated 19 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you of the following acts of piracy and aggression committed by United States and Kuwaiti forces in the Arabian Gulf:

1. On 13 September 2000 United States naval forces on station in the northern part of the Arabian Gulf seized the Riyad Company freighter *Al-Mustafa* and escorted it to the port of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, where the vessel and its cargo were impounded.

2. On 30 September 2000 United States naval forces intercepted the Iraqi vessel *Oman II*. A gunboat carrying 12 armed men was sent to the vessel, and they boarded it, searched it, examined its logs and inquired about quantities of fuel. The instruments and equipment on the bridge were photographed, and the course navigated by the vessel was determined. On the following day, 1 October 2000, a Marine force of some 14 men in full gear boarded the vessel and inspected its cargo. The search lasted for almost six hours before the vessel was allowed to head for the port at Umm Qasr.

3. On 25 October 2000 an Iraqi vessel was intercepted by the Kuwaiti craft *Faylakah*, a tugboat and a coast guard cutter and taken into the port of Shu'aybah, south of Kuwait City.

The acts of piracy and aggression committed by United States naval forces, which are stationed in the Arabian Gulf against the will of the peoples of the region, represent a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

I request you to intervene with the Government of the United States of America and with the Kuwaiti regime with a view to inducing them to desist forthwith from these hostile practices, which are to be regarded as in breach of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. In accordance with the principle of international responsibility, I affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to claim compensation for the damage done to it by these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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